

## Zone 10 - Somerset



### Justine Bell (incumbent)

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#### Survey response:

**Q1:** Will you ensure legitimate consultation with the mainstream Jewish community in all aspects of reacting to the antisemitism crisis?

**A:** Yes, I will work with the Administration on this engagement.

**Q2:** How will you ensure the Board respects the voices of minority groups and protects all minorities, including Jewish students?

**A:** There are many opportunities to do so, such as working with the Advisory Committee on Equity, making myself available, having conversations about this with senior staff.

**Q3:** Would you be supportive of the school board adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism?

**A:** I need to learn more, before I commit.

### **Other**

From the **Ottawa Against Antisemitism survey:**

Bell supports hiring a Jewish equity coach, and mandatory staff training on antisemitism in consultation with Federation and the OCDSB's Jewish Educators Group.

Regarding 'Palestinian Youth Movement' protests: "Only groups that have been confirmed to provoke hate should not be allowed on school property."

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## **John Bitzan**

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### **Survey response:**

**Q1:** Will you ensure legitimate consultation with the mainstream Jewish community in all aspects of reacting to the antisemitism crisis?

**A:** Yes

**Q2:** How will you ensure the Board respects the voices of minority groups and protects all minorities, including Jewish students?

**A:** With regard to the Jewish community, I will advocate for including mainstream community representatives like Federation, Centre for Holocaust Education and experts such as Mr. Irwin Cotler to be consulted and partnered with for training and outreach. I would advocate for the same approach for other minority groups.

**Q3:** Would you be supportive of the school board adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism?

**A:** Yes

### **Other**

From the **Ottawa Against Antisemitism survey:**

"The Jewish Federation of Ottawa and other mainstream community organizations should be treated as valuable partners by the OCDSB in countering antisemitism."

Regarding anti-Israel activism: "Criticism of the kind that would not be out of place if applied to other countries in similar circumstances as Israel is unlikely to qualify as a form of hate. What should not be tolerated in schools is the use of antisemitic stereotypes and motifs by anti-Israel activists. In addition, in my view, anti-Israel rhetoric that singles out Israel for condemnation and applies standards to it that it

does not apply to other democratic countries should be confronted. I would also argue that questioning Israel's right to exist or making comparisons between Israeli actions and those of the Nazis when there is no factual basis for doing so also crosses the line separating legitimate criticism from hate.”